

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections and for indicating that certain claims are allowable upon incorporation of the limitations of base claims. Applicant has amended the claims consistent with the Examiner's indications of allowability. Previously pending claims 10, 13, 14, 16-18, 40, 43, 44 and 46-48 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing the claims in one or more continuing applications.

New claims 63 and 64 have been added. These claims are directed to the use of ligands recited in claims 15 and 45, respectively, wherein the recited ligand (biliary glycoprotein molecule or fragment thereof) is fused to an immunoglobulin molecule or a fragment thereof. As noted by the Examiner in the Office Action (page 3, line 3), Dr. Blumberg's declaration supports the use of CEACAM1-based fusion proteins. In addition, the Examiner indicated that the claims were enabled for the use of ligands comprising biliary glycoprotein (CEACAM1) or a fragment thereof (page 2, lines 2-4 of paragraph #2). The added claims are directed to the use of such ligands. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification as filed, for example at page 4, lines 14-18 and 25-30, page 4, line 5 through page 5, line 10, and page 9, lines 19-22. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the added claims in addition to those already found allowable as noted above. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 10, 13, 14, 16-18, 40, 43, 44 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not enabled. Applicant has canceled these claims, and therefore the rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 10, 13, 14, 16-18, 40, 43, 44 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not enabled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard S. Blumberg, Applicant



John R. Van Amsterdam, Reg. No. 40,212
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

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